

*Friday, October 6, 2006*

## ***Chairman Rosenker Discusses His Priorities for Agency's General Aviation Safety Program***



*Chairman Rosenker, Jeff Guzzetti, Alex Lemishko, and safety professionals from most of the general aviation (GA) airframe and engine manufacturers, as well as from various government agencies*

In a speech to the General Aviation Air Safety Investigators' Advanced Technical Workshop in Wichita, Kansas, Chairman Mark V. Rosenker reiterated the Safety Board's commitment to making a safe industry safer, while acknowledging that last year saw a slight uptick in general aviation fatalities. The crowd consisted of safety professionals from most general aviation (GA) airframe and engine manufacturers and various government agencies.



"By conserving our precious time traveling to and from the sites of accidents in which there is no obvious safety payback, we are able to reduce our backlog, produce more timely reports, conduct more thorough investigations on the accidents that have safety issues, and develop more substantive GA accident reports, special investigations, and recommendations."

Rosenker said that with general aviation contributing more than \$150 billion to the United States' economic output, the Board has revised its investigative strategy over recent years to maximize the safety payback of its work. With about 1,900 general aviation accidents and serious incidents a year, the Board's 43 regional investigators cannot travel to every fatal or serious injury accident. Rosenker thanked those among the 3,400 Federal Aviation Administration inspectors who have assisted with on-scene accident documentation in general aviation investigations. He said that over the next few months and years, NTSB regional investigators will look into a number of broad GA safety issue areas, including air tour helicopter operations, human factors in glass cockpits, the aging of GA aircraft structures, and the quickly expanding industry of Very Light Jets.

After the speech, the Chairman took an orientation flight in a new Raytheon (Beech) G36 Bonanza airplane with a glass cockpit and toured the production lines of Cessna single-engine airplanes and the new Maverick business jet.

## ***Chairman Rosenker Commits to Making Boating Safer***

Chairman Rosenker delivered speeches to the Canadian Safe Boating Council on September 21 and to the National Association of State Boating Law Administrators (NASBLA) on September 25, emphasizing boater education, the need to change the recreational boating culture to one that accepts the wearing of life jackets, and the NTSB's Most Wanted Safety Recommendations aimed at preventing accidents on our waterways.

During the NASBLA conference, Chairman Rosenker presented Safety Board awards to the United States Virgin Islands, New Mexico, Oklahoma, and Rhode Island and Providence Plantations for meeting four specific boating safety criteria. These criteria are: the implementation of a mandatory education program that eventually will cover all recreational boaters; the mandatory use of personal flotation devices (lifejackets) for children ages 12 and under; strengthened alcohol and boating laws, including, at a minimum, a defined blood alcohol concentration and implied consent; and the inclusion of personal watercraft information in all State boating courses. The Board has presented a total of 17 boating safety awards to States and territories.

## ***Member Hersman Addresses Chlorine Institute***

Member Debbie Hersman gave the keynote address at the Chlorine Institute's 2006 Fall Meeting on September 25 in Hoover, Alabama. Over 200 members, including chlor-alkali producers, packagers, distributors, users, and suppliers, attended the meeting. Member Hersman presented a thorough discussion of the Safety Board's investigation of rail accidents and hazardous materials releases in Minot, South Dakota, Graniteville, South Carolina, and Macdona, Texas. The presentation, prepared by the Office of Rail, Pipeline, and Hazardous Materials Safety's Bob Trainor, was well received. Following her participation in the Chlorine Institute's Fall Meeting, Member Hersman traveled to Atlanta for an informal visit at the Safety Board's regional office, where she met with Vince Harris, Russ Goeber, Cheryl Christian, Corky Smith, Dr. Mitch Garber, and Cathy Gagne.

## ***Member Higgins Speaks at the 2006 Annual Air Medical Transport Conference***

Member Kitty Higgins spoke at the 2006 Annual Air Medical Transport Conference in Phoenix, Arizona on Wednesday, September 25th. The Association of Air Medical Services (AAMS) hosted this annual educational conference and trade show to provide air medical transport professional a venue to present and exchange information on the latest developments and advancements in the rapidly growing air medical transport industry. The audience included CEOs, program directors, medical directors, physicians, nurses, respiratory therapists, paramedics, pilots, communications specialists and mechanics – all part of the community of emergency medical and critical care professional who provide air and ground medical transport services.

Member Higgins briefed the participants on the NTSB's 2006 Special Investigative Report on Emergency Medical Services Operation. With support from Jeff Guzzetti, she provided a presentation that updated the Board's investigation of EMS accidents and the continuing NTSB focus on EMS operations. She provided information on the latest efforts by the FAA to address the safety issues facing this growing industry. She briefed the group on GAO's study of the EMS industry, requested by the House Committee on Transportation and Infrastructure, to examine the nature and scope of the helicopter air ambulance industry, including trends in size, composition, operations and accidents from 1998 through 2005. The GAO report will be issued early next year. At the conclusion of her remarks, Member Higgins fielded questions from attendees.

## ***NTSB Acquisition Division Excels***



Similar to the controlled chaos associated with a major accident investigation, the month of September provided that same type of atmosphere to the Acquisition Division...and they met the challenge. During September alone, the Acquisition Division awarded nearly 100 requirements and negotiated savings of over \$535,000. These negotiated savings nearly cover the operating costs of the entire Acquisition Division for the whole year.

So what did the Acquisition Division work so hard to purchase? Voyage Data Recorder software for the Office of Marine Safety and Office of Research and Engineering (RE); Flight Data Recorder software enhancements for the Office of Aviation Safety (AS) and RE; FOIA support and software for the General Counsel; information technology support, encryption software, and help desk software for the Office of the Chief Information Officer; space management software and human resource support for the Office of Administration; new financial and acquisition software for the Office of the Chief Financial Officer, Acquisition Division, and over 75 users of these systems; equipment for the boardroom and Communications Center; office furniture; and over 200 new computers (docking stations and desktops).

A special thanks to Keith O'Neill, Robert Boone, Fran Risinger, Bryan Moy, Michelle Hamlette, and Dianne Campbell for their tremendous effort.